

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ENABLING
SEAMLESS ROAMING IN A WIRELESS NETWORK

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A gateway server manages connections in a wireless local area network (WLAN). The
5 gateway server provides context information, such as an IP address, that is stored after
being previously allocated to a mobile device in a previous connection to the WLAN.
The gateway server reassigns the IP address to the mobile device after it reconnects to
the WLAN after a disconnection, thus providing seamless roaming for the mobile device
from WLAN to WLAN (or subnets within one WLAN) without requiring the user of the
10 device to re-register. The gateway server also provides cluster information (e.g., as part
of the context information) for a mobile device making a new connection to the WLAN,
such as access privileges associated with the cluster of users of the mobile devices. The
gateway server also provides load balancing among two or more WLAN's by directing a
newly connection mobile device to another WLAN (or subnet), if less congestion results.

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